



April 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with tremendous pleasure that I write in support of Lauren Bell. As a college intern during the fall 2014 semester and again during the spring 2015 semester, Lauren has worked diligently as a member of the Imaging Production group in The Metropolitan's Photograph Studio. Lauren coupled an educational background in the arts with a degree in Business Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her interest in—and passion for— museums, art history and photography led her back to school to her present concentration on an Associate of Fine Art Degree in studio photography at Sussex Community College. Lauren came to the Museum last fall with many outstanding capabilities and talents at the ready, and we were able to put her to work immediately on a wide variety of projects.

Talented, productive and self-motivated, Lauren has focused her efforts in the Studio across three primary areas of activity. The Studio maintains a permanent copy stand for rapid capture of prints, books and other printed materials. This station is equipped with a medium format Hasselblad H3DII-39 camera and Broncolor Lightbar units powered by a Broncolor Senso 2400 strobe pack. Lauren has dealt productively and professionally with all of the aforementioned materials on this rapid capture station. Able to match a meticulous approach with high efficiency—she has also worked within the Studio Production team on image editing in both Lightroom and Photoshop—adding clipping and silhouette paths to master files, retouching filament string from illuminated manuscript images along with various other image editing and file organization tasks. She has helped bulk edit 360° automated spin files (generally 432 high resolution image files per set), and scanned various materials for upload to the Museum's DAMs on an iQSmart3 station—primarily large format color transparencies as well as x-rays, film and glass plate negatives. Lauren moves easily between all of these tasks on a weekly basis with the utmost attention to quality. We feel sure we are omitting many other tasks that she has helped us with, since she recognizes when something needs to be done, and quietly confers with staff to ensure both large and small tasks happen smoothly and efficiently.

One of Lauren's most impressive contributions has been to bring the Studio into the realm of social media. In addition to the launch of the Photograph Studio's Instagram account, Lauren does ongoing research, gathers content by preparing images and writing captions, plans and structures posts in advance, and follows up on social engagement with audience members who have posed questions related to specific posts. She has worked closely with the staff photographers and the production group to shepherd us all along this new, but unfamiliar, path. It has been rewarding and a great success that we

hope to continue with enthusiasm, even if we are somewhat lacking in Lauren's special acumen and expertise! In anticipation of this eventual transition, Lauren has created documentation that includes a written and illustrated report on practices and goals, instruction manuals for specific workflows, and reports and instructions from the photographers concerning their contributions. She has sorted and tracked data regarding our Instagram account via a third party website, and organized spreadsheets for object photography and ongoing contributions.

With complete confidence I can assure any museum, artist or arts organization (she also interns at Magnum Photos) that in engaging Lauren, they will be assisted by someone with multiple talents, enthusiasm and an unpretentious, yet meticulous professionalism rare to find in someone her age. Lauren is a wonderful person and colleague and I recommend her to you with enthusiasm and without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barbara Bridgers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Barbara Bridgers
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